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European Satellite Committee

Services Division

(Meeting of 16 January 1957)

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Mrs. [REDACTED] discussed recent labor reforms in the Satellites. During 1956 all 7 Satellites increased wages, or announced increases for 1957; six of them reduced working hours. Except for Hungary, all of the Satellites increased pensions, and some made other improvements in social welfare benefits. Several countries repealed harsh laws relating to voluntary job changing and compulsory work assignments. Finally, preliminary moves were made in several Satellites to give workers a greater voice in management of their enterprises. These unprecedented liberalizing actions, taken in the face of threats of inflation and production difficulties, reflect the acute concern by the various regimes over the loyalty of the population -- and particularly the workers.

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At the meeting on 23 January 1957, Mr. [REDACTED] of S/TF will talk on economic relations between China and the Satellites. The meeting will be held behind the barrier in 1125 M at 1:30.



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